



Muskellunge

Esox masquinongy



Description:

- ◆ light background with dark markings
- ◆ usually olive to tan background with non-branching dark bars
- ◆ scales only on upper half of both the cheeks and gill covers
- ◆ females grow faster and larger than males
- ◆ teeth simply used to hold prey and do not mesh like sharks teeth
- ◆ 16-19 branchiostegal rays
- ◆ no bar below the eye

Facts:

- ◆ largest member of the pike family
- ◆ feed primarily on other fish
- ◆ opportunistic ambush predators
- ◆ females live longer than males
- ◆ one of the most desired trophy fish of the Great Lakes region
- ◆ vary greatly in color and markings

Size:

- ◆ up to 72 inches and can grow to 40 pounds

Range:

- ◆ originally St. Lawrence River - Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins from Quebec to southeastern Manitoba and south in the Appalachians to Georgia and west to Iowa
- ◆ Introduced into Atlantic drainages as far south as southern Virginia

Muskellunge Catch Totals

Year	Total
1987	1
Grand Total	1

*Muskellunge were only caught during the year shown